

David Standley

October 27, 2019

Select Board
Town of Ipswich
25 Green St.
Ipswich, MA 01938

Members,

I have been severely disappointed and disillusioned by the observed reactions and responses to the development of and recommendations for a public waterways-related Article for the 2019 Special Town Meeting by the Government Study Committee. That Article was intended to assure that the management of Ipswich waterways was led and conducted consistently and in full accordance with law and regulation. It was developed over a period of over two years by the GSC in response to a 2016 request from the Board of Selectmen through Town Manager Crosby, undertaken in accordance with its normal procedures of fully open and noticed discussions of its efforts and communications with potentially concerned parties.

That work has always been pursued diligently, openly, and with complete integrity. In this and every previous instance, the GSC has done in-depth research, has sought to fully inform and invited the participation of potentially affected parties and groups, whatever the topic. Should some choose not to participate that, it seems to me, is a fault or a problem of **neither** the process **nor** for the GSC to resolve.

GSC discussions and debates have always taken place entirely in open, duly advertised public meetings including those of the Select Board. The minutes of the Committee's meetings always indicate the topics discussed and, where appropriate, the results of discussion; and are made public in accordance with Town procedures.

In this case, GSC results, and GSC members, have been challenged on unfounded grounds and with unsupported allegations. For the Select Board to fail to support recommendations is one thing. There are always differences of opinion despite the weight of evidence. But to deny the legislative body, the Town Meeting, the opportunity to hear debate on and vote on the issue is to me a flat-out slap in the face. Postponement of that discussion by taking the unusual step of withdrawing from the STM Warrant a previously approved Article does not change my opinion.

After considerable cogitation and distress, I have decided to resign from the Government Study Committee, effective immediately. This distinguished Committee has a long history of effectively and properly providing support to the town, and I believe your actions will undeservedly mar its reputation and diminish its effectiveness. I have no desire to continue to serve in this environment.

I had always hoped to simply fade away, but that is not to be. This marks the end of my more than three decades of efforts to serve Ipswich.

David Standley

cc: Government Study Committee
Town Manager